GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4938
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2012
QUANTITY OF SULPHUR IN COAL
Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao;Sharma Shri Jagdish

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of sulphur in coal and status of ambient air quality in those 43 industrial groups including Chandrapur, Koraba, Angul, Talcher, Kuddler, Jharsugra, Vishakhapatnam and Singrauli, which have been declared as most polluted industries;

(b) the effect on health of people by environmental pollution caused due to said industrial groups;

(c) whether the Government has issued any notification for use of coal with less than 34 per cent sulphur content in the critically polluted areas in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of Thermal Power Plants where coal with sulphur content is being used?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a). The sulphur content in coal varies between 0.2 − 0.5% by weight in India except for the coal found in Assam with higher sulphur content 1.0 − 4.5%. Ambient air quality in 43 critically polluted industrial clusters/areas (CPAs) including Chandrapur, Koraba, Angul-Talcher, Cuddalore, Vishakapatnam and Singrauli is measured by concerned State Pollution Control Boards in terms of Sulphur Dioxide (SO2), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) and particulate matter having size less than 10 micron (PM10).

Annual average concentration of SO2 in ambient air is within notified norms for above listed CPAs, and levels of NO2 also within standards, except for Chandrapur during 2008, whereas levels of PM10 have exceeded the norms.

(b). The Central Pollution Control Board has not undertaken any specific study to ascertain the likely effect on health of people by environmental pollution caused in above listed CPAs.

(c). Under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, a coal based thermal power plant (TPP) located in a CPA is required to use coal with ash content less than 34% on annual average basis, as per law. However, sulphur content for Indian coal generally varies between 0.2 − 0.5%, as mentioned above.

(d). A total of 13 TPP, located in CPAs are required to use coal with ash content less than 34%. Only 2 TPPs are presently complying with this condition. The details are provided in Annexure.